

## **Delahunt, William**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2001 12:53 PM  
**To:** Delahunt, William  
**Subject:** concern

Dear Representative Delahunt,

I'm sure we share the same shock and grief at the events of the last couple of days. We are all devastated and, at the moment, very concerned about safety and the security of our country. I'm writing to express my concern over a related danger.

I and many people I've spoken with in the last 24 hours are fearful of a backlash against any and all people of Middle Eastern origin here in the US. I personally have several friends of said origins who are hardworking, taxpaying individuals who contribute to the economic and social well being of our State and Country. They are as American as anyone I know. They are not terrorists, fanatics or extremists of any sort. One in particular is a valued business associate, is married to an American woman, has a young son, and is one of my closest friends. I fear for the safety of him, his family and, not incidentally, his business.

The United States has been ruthlessly and horribly attacked. We must and will retaliate quickly and decisively and, as one of your constituents, I wholly support this action. I implore you to remember though, and to remind your fellow members of Congress that it is only the guilty who are guilty. To victimize those who are not won't undo the loss that we, collectively and individually, have tragically suffered.

One thing that comes to mind is the widespread opinion that an "Arab" terrorist group was responsible for the bombing in Oklahoma City a couple of years ago, when in fact it turned out to be a very sick, midwestern caucasian. Let's make sure we have the facts straight and act with cool heads as much as is humanly possible under the circumstances.

Our country must act quickly and decisively, with strength. But I pray that in the heat of national anger, we do not punish those other than our enemies in any way. To do so would lower us to the level of the ones who have inflicted this terrible atrocity on us.

God Bless America.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Quincy, Ma 02169  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]